

## **News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)**

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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### **Newberry Fire Department Wins Federal Grant**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that Newberry Fire Department has been awarded a \$49,500 grant from the U.S. Fire Administration.

The “Assistant for Firefighters Grant” will go toward fire operations and firefighter safety, which includes training, wellness and fitness, firefighting equipment, personal protective equipment, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

Spratt said the grant was a prime of example of how the federal government helps local communities. “This grant will be a big help to the men and women who help protect communities like Newberry,” Spratt said.

Spratt has been a strong supporter of funding for first responders. “Ten years ago,” said Spratt, “Congress passed a bill that I authored along with former Senator Nunn of Georgia, calling attention to the emerging threat of terrorism at home and the spread of unconventional weapons. We pointed to the need for funding first responders in the awful case of a catastrophe. We passed our bill and allocated funds for first responders in our budget resolutions; but it took 9/11 to drive home the need and secure the funds.

“It’s good to see the grants finally coming to our firefighters. We all hope the equipment these grants will buy will be used to improve routine fire protection and not be needed in a catastrophe. But the grants are a way for the federal government to say that first responders like firefighters play a more important role than ever.”

The Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States. The funds are used by firefighters to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, firefighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, emergency medical service programs, and fire prevention and safety programs.

Fire departments with questions about the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program can reach the FEMA Grant Program staff at 1-866-274-0960, or via email at [usfagrants@fema.gov](mailto:usfagrants@fema.gov). For the most current information regarding these grant awards, and any of the many other USFA projects, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) or [enroll in the USFA email distribution list serve](#) for the most current news releases from the USFA.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

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